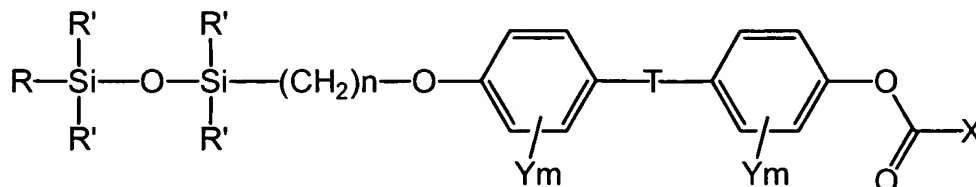


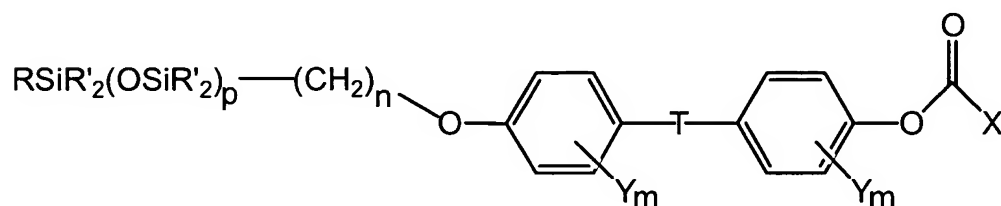


ABSTRACT

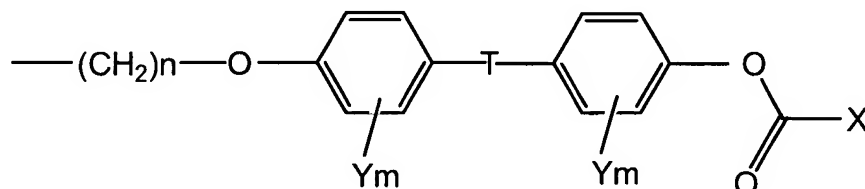
The present invention provides a liquid crystal cell that is bistable in operation and comprises a ferroelectric compound having a smectic C phase, arranged between alignment layers of polyamide or polyester. Said compound has the general formula



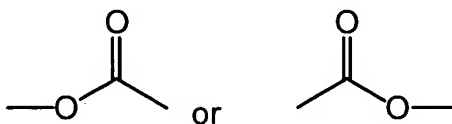
or



wherein R represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 10 carbon atoms or the group



each R' represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, T is



X represents an alkyl or halogen-substituted alkyl group having at least one chiral centre, Y represents a fluorine atom, m has a value of 0, 1 or 2, p has a value of 2, 3 or 4 and n has a value of 10, 11 or 12.